

ALFRED PAULL HOUSE
729 Main Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS NO. WV-255

HABS
WVA
35-WHEEL,
44-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALFRED PAULL HOUSE

HABS NO. WV-255

HABS
WVA
35- WHEEL
44-

Location: 729 N. Main Street, (between 7th and 8th St.), Wheeling, Ohio County, WV.
USGS: Wheeling Quadrangle, West Virginia--Ohio, Universal Mercator
Coordinates 17.523440.4435860

Present Owner: As of June 16, 1988, Francis S. Williams

Present Occupant: Patty's Design Studio

Present Use: Office and apartment use

Significance: Built by prominent Wheeling businessman, Alfred Paull, The Alfred Paull House is a fine example of Queen Anne eclecticism--the dominant style of domestic building in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The ornate, three-story building is distinguished by a Moorish keyhole window and a large two-story oriel crowned by a pedimented wall dormer. A projecting, gabled bay dominates the entire building and decorative metal panels adorn the tower frieze and spandrels of the bay, some of which were lost and replaced by flat materials.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: c. 1888. The Ohio County Land Book of 1888 states that Lee S. Paull had added a building, valued at \$4,500.00 to the North 36' of Lot 28. The Wheeling city directories corroborate the date of erection. In 1888 Alfred Paull resided at 727 Main St. By 1890, he is listed at 729 Main Street. The directory for 1889 is missing.

2. Architect: E.W. Wells. E.W. Wells, considered to be "one of the leading architects of the city" in 1990, was a member of the firm Klieves, Kraft & Co., a Wheeling company that stood "at the head of the contracting and building business in Wheeling,"¹ credited with the construction of such residences as those of A.W. Kelly, G.E. Stifel, Archibald W. Paull and commercial buildings such as Washington hall and the Reilly block. They were also involved extensively in the lumber business, being proprietors of the Central Planing-mills.

Wells was born in 1850 in Brooke county, West Virginia. He received six months of training in drawing and civil engineering at Bethany College, after which he worked for three years with his father, a carpenter. In May, 1874, he moved to Wheeling and found employment with Charles P. Hamilton in stair building. Subsequently he was employed as a journeyman with Klieves, Kraft & Co., serving as a mechanic in the building of the West Virginia University at Morgantown.

After four years of service with Klieves, Kraft & Co. Wells became a partner and began to study architecture in his leisure time. Soon after, he opened his own architectural office as part of the regular business of the firm. He was responsible for the designs and the erection of many notable Wheeling buildings including the Y.M.C.A. building, L.C. Stifel's block and the residences of Dr. Robert C. Hazlett, George E. Stifel and Alfred Paull.²

3. Original and subsequent owners: The Alfred Paull House³ was built on the north one-half (36') of Lot 28, parcel 24.2, in the Washington District of Wheeling, commonly known as the "Old Town of Wheeling" or "North Wheeling."

- 1846 Deed dated 22 September, recorded in Deed Book 171, page 29. James Matthews and Amandey his wife to Samuel Irwin. \$1.00 paid for Lot 28.
- 1877 Deed dated 5 November, recorded in Deed Book 67, page 349. D. Kerr Irwin to Leanna Irwin, Sutia Irwin, William H. Irwin and Mary E. Singleton. \$5,000.00 paid for parcels of land in Iowa (240 acres), Missouri (220 acres); and Lots 26, 27, 28, 29 on Main Street, Wheeling, West Virginia.
- 1879 Deeded dated 11 June, recorded in Deed Book 69, page 103. Leanna Irwin, Sutia Irwin and William H. Irwin, "Leanna, being the widow and the other parties hiers at law of Samuel Irwin deceased," to Mary E. Singleton. \$5.00 paid for the north one-half of Lot 28.
- 1887 Deeded dated 11 August, recorded in Deed Book 80, page 67. Mary E. Singleton to Lee S. (Singleton) Paull. \$5.00 paid for the north one-half of Lot 28.
- 1904 Deeded dated 15 February, recorded in Deed Book 114, page 310. Alfred & Lee Paull to Daniel F. Ebbert. \$12,500 paid for the north one-half of Lot 28.
- 1946 Deeded dated 31 January, recorded in Deed Book 284, page 119. Daniel F. Ebbert to William Reynolds & wf. No consideration of value for the north one-half of Lot 28.
- 1968 Deeded dated 15 February, recorded in Deed Book 491, page 419. William Reynolds & Beatrice Reynolds to William L. Reynolds & Ruth M. Reynolds. The transfer of the north one-half of Lot 28 was between parents and child without consideration of value.
- 1968 Deeded dated 1 November, recorded in Deed Book 498, page 488. William L. Reynolds & Ruth M. Reynolds to John F. Valput, Jr. The total consideration of value for the north one-half of Lot 28 was \$19,500.00.
- 1983 Deeded dated 6 December, recorded in Deed Book 616, page 601. John F. Valput, Jr. & Asta Valput to New Neighborhoods, Inc., a not-for-profit West Virginia corporation. The total consideration of value for the north one-half of Lot 28 was \$23,500.00.
- 1983 Deeded dated 6 December, recorded in Deed Book 882, page 391. New Neighborhoods, Inc. to George H. Siebert, Jr., Trustee.
- 1986 Deeded dated 23 July, recorded in Deed Book 632, page 174. James E. Seibert, a Substitute Trustee of Wheeling to Half Dollar Trust & Savings Bank. \$32,675.14 paid for the north one-half of Lot 28.
- 1986 Deeded dated 26 August, recorded in Deed Book 632, page 845. Half Dollar Trust & Savings Bank to Valerie D. Lakios. \$162,707.70 paid for nine parcels of property including the north one-half of Lot 28 (parcel VII of deed).

1988 Deeded dated 16 June, recorded in Deed Book 642, page 465. Valerie D. Lakios to Francis S. Williams. The total consideration paid for the north one-half of Lot 28 was \$48,000.00.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Klieves, Kraft & Co., a contracting and building firm in Wheeling.

5. Original plans and construction: No longer extant.

6. Alterations and additions: Between 1902 and 1912, an addition was added to the rear of the house enclosing the bay window. A new wooden porch was added replacing the smaller, original porch. A front porch, side entry and fire escape were added between 1921 and 1956. In 1988, the front porch was removed by Francis S. Williams.

B. Historical Context:

The Alfred Paull residence was built in 1888 on the block between 7th and 8th Street, an area populated by common row houses which were homes to a mixture of working and middle class people. At 724 Main lived a bookkeeper; a nailfeeder boarded at 738 Main; the secretary of the Schmulbach Brewing Company lived at 740 Main; the general manager of the Wheeling Bakery Co. rented at 730 Main; and a merchant tailor rented at 732 Main. North of 7th Street appears to have been increasingly populated by working class individuals. There one could find a coalminer residing at 710 Main and a whitewasher at 722 Main.⁴

Remarkable town houses and mansions were found south of 7th St., with the mansions located between 8th and 9th Street. These included the Second Empire house of William Goering, treasurer of the Central Glass Company, at 701 Main; the French Renaissance home of Christian Hess, merchant tailor, at 811 Main; the Italian Renaissance mansion of Henry K. List, banker, at 837 Main (later known as 827); and the Queen Anne residence of George E. Stifel of the retail dry goods business, George E. Stifel & Co., at 807 Main. By the mid-1890s, remarkable Queen Anne buildings could be added to this list including the Wm. Stifel residence at 847 Main (after the Sweeney mansion burned down), the G.W. Eckhart House as well as the Romanesque style residences of Edward Hazlett and John K. List.

The Sanborn map of 1890 indicates that the North Main Street neighborhood was dominated by two-story, common row houses with a brick facade slightly back from the street with a raised elevation or abutting the street. Many of these buildings still exist today, with a wood frame cornice and common wood hoods. Many of these row houses pre-date the decades between 1860 and 1880 when the Italianate style was popular and it is believed that they were originally simple colonial town houses, later modified to conform to prevailing tastes in architectural design.

The Main Street neighborhood was one of the earliest settled areas of the town. In deed records and plat maps, it is commonly referred to as "Old Town." The Zanes settled in Wheeling in 1769 and laid out the first lots in 1793. Ebenezer Zane, one of the founders of Wheeling, built his home c. 1800 at Main and 11th Street.⁵ In 1805-06, the second brick house in Wheeling was built on the corner of Main and 8th Street.⁶ The arrival of the National Road in 1818--down 7th Street and then south on Main Street, fostered further settlement. More importantly, it brought Wheeling into a national network of commerce and manufacturing.

Over the course of the nineteenth century, with developments in transportation, technology and industry, Wheeling continued to expand in population and importance. In 1831, Congress designated Wheeling a U.S. Port of Entry. Eighteen years later, in 1849, the Suspension Bridge crossed the Ohio River and for many years remained the longest clear-span bridge in the world. In 1853, the Baltimore and Ohio railroad brought the first passenger train to Wheeling.⁷ By the 1870s, Wheeling was known as the "Nail City," producing more kegs of iron, cut nails than any other city in the United States.

The 1880s was a decade of considerable growth and change in Wheeling. In 1882, Wheeling became the fourth city in the United States to have electric lights and in 1886, the Natural Gas Co. of West Virginia began piping gas for heating homes, replacing coal-burning as the primary source of heat. In 1887, Wheeling replaced their horse-drawn trolleys (which ran along Main Street) with the Van De Poele system, becoming the third city in the country to have an electric railway system.⁸ That same year, Main Street was paved with fire brick from Wheeling Creek to 10th Street. Yet, it was housing that reflected Wheeling's expansion during this period. In 1888, the same year that the Paull House was built, the Wheeling city directory wrote that "the strongest evidence of the growth and improvement of the city can be seen by the small number of houses that are rent throughout the city . . . and the number of desirable houses now vacant are very limited. Taken altogether the indications are very favorable that Wheeling is not only increasing very considerably in population, but is on the eve of a very substantial boom . . ."⁹

The construction of the the Paull House on a block that was dominated by common row houses was no doubt a reflection of these developments. It was an architectural expression of Wheeling's economic prosperity during the late-nineteenth century. Additionally, the Paull House contributed to North Main Street's distinction as an elite neighborhood populated by businessmen, professionals and their families. Like his neighbors in 1888, Henry K. List, William Goering, Christian Hess and George E. Stifel, Alfred Paull could rank himself among the wealthy, business class of Wheeling.¹⁰

Alfred Paull, born in 1854, was the son of Judge James Paull, a prominent Wheeling attorney who was elected in 1872 a judge of the supreme court of appeals of West Virginia. Graduating from Washington Jefferson College in Pennsylvania in 1876, Alfred began his career in Wheeling business as secretary of the Nail City Glass company and married in 1877 Lee Singleton, a descendent of an early Wheeling family, the Irwins. In 1881, he entered the insurance business, becoming secretary of the Manufacturers' Insurance company. In 1885, he was elected secretary of the Underwriter's Insurance Company of Wheeling. By 1890, shortly after the completion of his home on Main Street, he was "prominently associated with the business interests of interests of Wheeling" by local biographer, Judge Gibson L. Cranmer.¹¹

Active in civic affairs, Paull served on the city council for four years, 1895-1899. He was also a member of the Board of Education, 1891-1893, and a Director of the City Hospital and the Y.M.C.A. Politically, he was a republican and an appointed Aide-De-Camp on Gov. White's Staff, with rank of Colonel. He was also distinguished as Past Grand Commander K.T. of the Knights Templar of West Virginia, and Past Potentiate Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of West Virginia, July 20, 1901.¹²

Lee S. Paull, daughter of Thomas and Mary Ellen Irwin Singleton, was a member of the Irwin family, early residents of Wheeling.¹³ She purchased the property at 729

Main St. from her mother, Mary, who resided with her husband next door. The property at 723 Main St. was also owned by a member of the Irwin family, James Matthews and his wife Amanda Irwin, daughter of William Irwin who was a blacksmith in Wheeling in the early nineteenth century. According to the Wheeling Daily Intelligencer of January 22, 1898, Mary Irwin Singleton died on January 21, 1898 at the home of her daughter, Lee, at 729 Main Street.¹⁴

In 1904, Alfred Paull sold his residence to Daniel F. Ebbert, a bookkeeper at the J.L. Stifel Co., and moved out to Woodsdale.¹⁵ At the time, Woodsdale was a town just beyond the borders of Wheeling, considered to be the country. It was commonly referred to as "out-the-pike," a colloquial phrase that connoted respectability.¹⁶

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Alfred Paull House is a fine example of Queen Anne eclecticism--the dominant style of domestic building in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. The ornate, three-story building is distinguished by a Moorish keyhole window and a large two-story oriel crowned by a pedimented wall dormer. A projecting, gabled bay dominates the entire building and decorative metal panels adorn the tower frieze and spandrels of the bay, some of which were lost and replaced by flat materials. According to architectural historian Gwendolyn Wright, Queen Anne "was the most common generic term, in England and the United States, to describe the eclectic houses or institutional buildings that featured any or all of the hodgepodge of materials and details which supposedly characterized a distinct historical style." Lacking a precise definition, the Queen Anne style can be characterized as "a matter of symbolic reference and inference, romantic inspiration and individualized interpretation . . ."¹⁷

2. Condition or fabric: Fair. Needs cleaning, painting and pointing. Considerable decorative elements missing on the oriel window and dormer on the left front.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The three-story building has two bays across the front elevation including a projecting bay and a raised basement.

2. Foundations: Stone foundation with raised basement of rough-faced stone and smooth, stone water table.

3. Facade wall: Red Brick common bond with molded brick and decorative metal ornamentation.

4. Structural system, framing: Wood frame with load-bearing masonry walls.

5. Chimneys: Five, red brick chimneys with corbeled cap.

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The principal entranceway has one pair of seven-tiered wooden doors stained dark brown with painted wooden surround. Each door has three rectangular wood panels and nine square wood panels organized

in six tiers. The seventh tier is a single-light window. Between the sixth and the seventh tier is a projecting wood cornice.

b. Windows and shutters: The facade has a keyhole shaped window with wide, circular carved stone surround, keystone with decorative detailing, and stone sill with incised Eastlake detailing. The stone lintel is located above the circular stone surround and extends across the window over and over the doorway. There is a second-story, painted wood oriel with three, one-over-one double hung windows with wood surround. The oriel has painted, pressed metal decorations and trim. In the projecting, three-story, pedimented and gabled bay there is one, large single-light window with a three-light transom, stone lintel and sill with incised Eastlake detailing symmetrical about the center axis at the first level. At the second level there is a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows with wood surround. At the third level there are three, nine-over-one double-hung windows with wood surround. The raised basement has three, recessed window openings that have subsequently been closed. Two of the recesses have metal latticework grates.

8. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Slate shingle covering. The projecting bay of the facade has a gabled roof crowned with a metal finial.

b. Cornice: Heavy, painted, projecting wooden cornice with painted, wooden dentils.

c. Dormers: There is a gabled and pedimented dormer with a painted wood, corbeled cornice projecting below the pediment.

C. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building is situated on a rectangular parcel of property known as the north one-half (36') of Lot 28 or parcel no. 24.2. The building faces east and to the west, behind the rear of the structure, is the Ohio River. Where the railroad tracks used to run along the riverbank behind the property can be found an asphalt jogging path. In front of the building is a small, ashlar stone patio surrounded by a low a low-iron fence.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early Views:

City of Wheeling: Its History and Institutions. Wheeling: Wheeling Register, Souvenir Edition 1896, p.97.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Books:

Cranmer, Hon. Gibson Lamb, ed. History of Wheeling City and Ohio County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens. Chicago: Biographical Publishing

Company, 1902, 719-723, 757-758.

Cranmer, Judge Gibson L. History of the Upper Ohio Valley. Vol. 1. Madison, Wisc.: Brant & Fuller, 1890, 396.

Murphy, Robert E., ed. Progressive West Virginians: Some of the Men who have built Up and Developed the State of West Virginia. Wheeling, WV: The Wheeling News, 1905, 21.

Newton, J.H., et al. History of the Pan-Handle and: Historical Collections of the Counties of Ohio, Brooke, Marshall and Hancock, West Virginia. Wheeling, WV.: J.A. Caldwell, 1879, 270-272.

Tingle, Edward and R. B. Naylor. Souvenir History of Wheeling. Phila: The Pictorial Publishing Co., 1906.

Wheeling. 5 of 9 Volumes. Wheeling: H. R. Page & Co., 1889. Located in the Wheeling Room, Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV.

The Wheeling Register. City of Wheeling: Its History and Institutions, with Illustrations and Sketches of its Professional, Banking, Wholesale and Manufacturing Interests. Wheeling, WV.: The Wheeling Register, 1896. "Souvenir Edition."

Collections:

Early Postcard Views of Wheeling and Vicinity. Collection Ellen Dunable. Wheeling, WV.

Newspapers:

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer. March 31, 1888. "The State's Metropolis. Wheeling as a Commercial and Manufacturing Centre."

Wheeling Daily Intelligencer. January 22, 1898. Obituary for Mary Irwin Singleton.

Public Documents:

Insurance Maps of Wheeling, WV. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1890. Located in the West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.

Insurance Maps of Wheeling, WV. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1902. Located in the West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.

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Located in the Office of Development, Wheeling, WV.

W. L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1888). Located in the Wheeling Room,
Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV.

W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1890). Located in the Wheeling Room,
Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV.

W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1904-05). Located in the Wheeling Room,
Ohio County Public Library, Wheeling, WV.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
171, 29, 1846.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
67, 349, 1877.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
69, 103, 1879.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
80, 67, 1887.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
114, 310, 1904.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
284, 119, 1946.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
491, 419, 1968.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
498, 488, 1968.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
616, 601, 1983.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
882, 391, 1983.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, County Clerk's Office, Deed Book
632, 174, 1986.

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632, 845, 1986.

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642, 465, 1988.

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1888.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, Office of the Assessor. City of Wheeling Tax Map WH-36, Sept. 1959.

Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia, Tax Assessor's Office, Property Record Card, 1962

Unpublished Material:

Historic Properties Inventory Form: Historic Preservations Unit, Dept. of Culture and History. The Cultural Center. Form prepared by Friends of Wheeling, Inc. & Paul D. Marshall, June 30, 1988.

National Register of Historic Place Registration Form. Friends of Wheeling, 1989.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Books:

Ainsworth, Elizabeth Yeager and Robert G. Ainsworth, Wheeling: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, VI: Donning Company/Publishers, 1977.

Fetherling, Doug. Wheeling: An Illustrated History. United States: Windsor Publication, Inc., 1983.

Gowan, Alan. Images of American Living: Four Centuries of Architecture and Furniture as Cultural Expression. New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1964.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

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Wright, Gwendowlyn. Moralism and the Model Home. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.

Misc.:

A Walking Tour of Victorian Wheeling. Wheeling: Wheeling Historic Landmarks Commission, 1990. An illustrated guide book in pamphlet form.

E. Sources Not Yet Investigated: Plumbing Plans of the Hare Plumbing & Supply Company, which was in operation during the 1880s and '90s, donated to The Friends of Wheeling, Wheeling, WV.

F. Supplemental Material:

1. The Alfred Paul House and neighborhood in 1890. Insurance Maps of Wheeling, WV. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1890.

Prepared by: Ariene R. Kriv
Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
August 1990

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Historic Wheeling Recording Project was undertaken during the summer of 1990 by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert J. Kapsch, chief, division of the National Park Service. The funding as provided by West Virginia University through the Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archeology, Emory L. Kemp, director. Local sponsorship was provided by the Victorian Wheeling Landmarks Foundation, Betty Nutting, Bill Fields, and Frances Williams, principals. The project was supervised by Paul D. Dolinsky, chief of HABS; and project leaders Joseph Balachowski, architect and Catherine C. Lavole, historian. The large format photography was the work of Jack E. Boucher, HABS photographer.

The documentation was produced in the HABS/HAER Field Office, Wheeling, West Virginia in 1990 by Professor John P. White, Supervisory Architect, Texas Tech University; Architectural Technicians Joelynn Barclay, University of Texas at Arlington; Tatiana Begelman, Columbia University; Steven C. Byington, Texas Tech University; Lazlo A. Darago, Technical University of Budapest (U.S.-ICOMOS, Hungary); Harold E. Phelps III, University of Southern California; Mark A. Radven, Texas Tech University; Historians Ariene R. Kriv, Rutgers University; and Lee R. Maddex, West Virginia University.

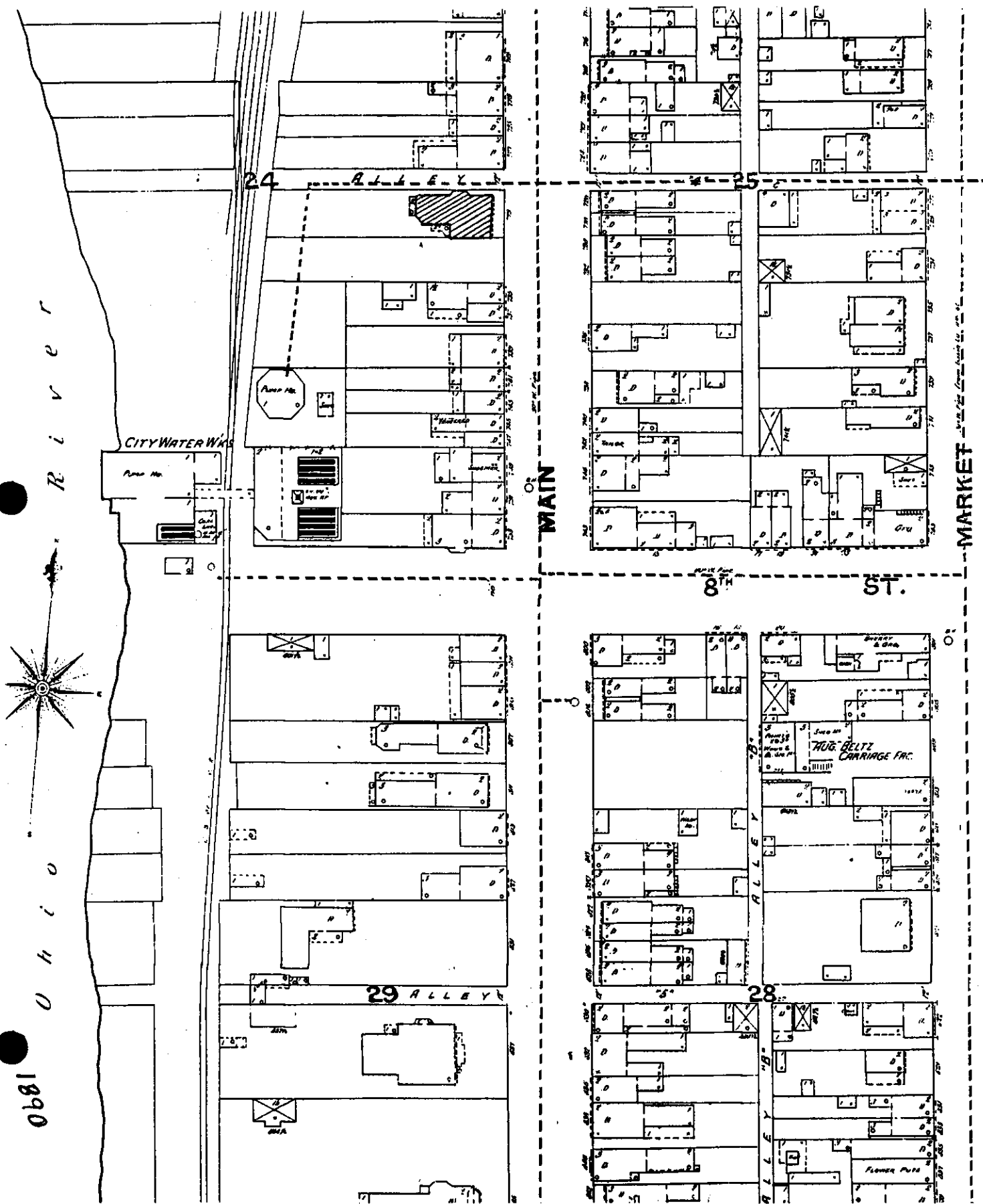
NOTES:

1. Cranmer, History of the Upper Ohio Valley.
2. Ibid., 469-470.
3. Although the deed to the property was held originally by his wife, Lee S. Paull, the Wheeling city directory of 1890 and Cranmer's History of the Upper Ohio Valley, refer to Alfred Paull, rather than his wife, as the owner of the building. Hence, the "Alfred Paull House."
4. W.L. Callin's Wheeling City Directory (1888).
5. Ainsworth, 18.

6. Newton, 249.
7. Alnsworth, 72.
8. McConnell, 46.
9. W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1888), 17.
10. W.L. Callin's Wheeling City Directory (1888). Early photographic views of the homes of Christian Hess and George E. Stifel can be found among the illustrations in Wheeling. The Christian Hess residence and the Henry K. List residence are included in A Walking Tour of Victorian Wheeling.
11. Cranmer, History of the Upper Ohio Valley, 396.
12. For biographical information on Alfred Paull, see Murphy's Progressive West Virginians and Cranmer's History of the Upper Ohio Valley, 396.
13. For more information on the Irwin family, see the biographical sketch of William Irwin and James E. Matthews in Cranmer's History of the Pan-Handle, 272.
14. Wheeling Daily Intelligencer, January 22, 1898.
15. W.L. Callin's Wheeling Directory (1904-05).
16. Fetherling, 62.
17. Wright, p.63.

Figure #1

ALFRED PAULL HOUSE
HABS NO. WV-252 (page 12)



ADDENDUM TO:
ALFRED PAULL HOUSE
729 North Main Street
Wheeling
Ohio County
West Virginia

HABS WV-255
~~WVA, 35-WHEEL, 44-~~

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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